

Our community and Nation honor corporal Butler's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Corporal Rhett A. Butler will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 49, which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and honors those members of our Armed Forces who have received Purple Hearts for their dedicated service.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was founded in 1932 and is composed solely of veterans who have received Purple Hearts, making it the only veteran organization that is composed of only combat veterans. The organization promotes education, fraternity, service, and patriotism, and they provide service for veterans and their families who are in need. In addition, they work to support relevant legislative initiatives.

As an organization committed to the care and support of combat veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart deserves the recognition of this Congress for 75 years of hard work serving our Nation's brave veterans of the Armed Forces.

I cannot begin to express the gratitude I feel to the members of our Armed Forces, both past and present, for the gift of freedom that they have given to every American. They have given freely of themselves to defend this great Nation deserve our everlasting gratitude and respect.

We have the privilege and responsibility of both taking care of and honoring the sacrificial service of our combat veterans. I urge my colleagues to vote for the adoption of this resolution.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR ITS IMPERIAL ARMED FORCES' COERCION OF YOUNG WOMEN INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 121, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally apologize and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery during its occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the end of World War II.

During this time period, the government of Japan created a system of forced military prostitution where young females were used as involuntary sexual servants or "comfort women" in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century. Over 200,000 women are believed to have been coerced into these government sanctioned programs, and only an estimated 25 percent survived this horrible and painstaking ordeal. Although the government of Japan has made some efforts to address these past grievances, they have repeatedly undermined the sincerity of their own statements by engaging in questionable practices to disregard these unfortunate events. Some Japanese textbooks have attempted to downplay the existence of "comfort women," and several officials have tried to dilute or retract previously expressed apologies.

The nation of Japan has long been a valuable friend and ally of the United States, and I understand their desire to look forward to the future, but that should not come at the expense of ignoring the horrible events of the past. In light of its historical shortcomings, the Japanese government must be willing to publicly accept responsibility for its past sins and offer a sincere and formal apology if they wish to be forgiven by the international community. They should also discourage any efforts to refute the existence of "comfort women." It is important for future generations to be aware of these events in order to ensure that these tragedies will not be repeated. There is no greater enemy than ignorance of the past.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the many women and families that were affected by these terrible crimes. Please join me in voting for H. Res. 121 so that we can ensure that this tragedy is properly addressed and acknowledged.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to express my concern for diminishing access to higher education opportunities.

We live in a country where the education system is flawed from the ground up. The lack of proper instruction throughout elementary, middle, and secondary school has left many of the under-represented minorities even further behind their classmates. The lack of provisions and support provided to schools in historically black neighborhoods has caused the number of African-Americans applying and enrolled in professional schools to drop.

The number of African-Americans in both the medical and legal professions is anemic compared to the number that live in our country. Even though African Americans make up over 13 percent of the country's population, a recent study found that they make up only 3.9 percent of lawyers and 3.3 percent of physicians.

Madam Speaker, there are a multitude of reasons as to why African-American presence

in law school dropped from 7.5 percent to 6.8 percent from 1994 to 2004. Many blame the law school admissions' over-reliance on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test). This test, which has never been proven to be a successful forecaster of achievement in law school or aptitude as a lawyer, usually makes up over half the criteria that law school admissions counselors use to base their admissions decisions on. The inflated dependence on the LSAT, which studies show is in and of itself biased, has led to a sharp decline of both applications and enrollment by African-Americans into law school.

The necessity for schools to raise the median LSAT scores of the applicants they accept has caused a dramatic drop in the number of African-American law school students. In a study from 2002 to 2004, the 25th percentile LSAT score for law schools in my home State of Florida rose from 149 to 151. In that same time period, African-American enrollment in Florida law school dropped from 557 to 508 students, or nearly 10 percent, while total enrollment rose by 14 percent.

Madam Speaker, we need to challenge this disturbing trend or we are facing a future in which there is a complete lack of African-American presence in the legal world. This trend challenges the right of African-Americans to engage in the legal process of this great Nation.

One major issue that we can influence is the lack of support and education for those interested in a career in law. Many young African-American high school and college students have not had the exposure or have become discouraged by the mass of reports of diminishing African American law school enrollment. With encouragement from current black lawyers and those in support of more diversity in the legal profession, we can help build a proper education system for all students of this Nation.

This is not just about law school. We need to work together, from as early as elementary school, to provide the necessary tools to challenge the current pattern of disinvestment in education. Our educational system must give everyone the proper training and experience necessary to enter higher education and, someday, the professional world.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merchant Mariners who served in our Nation during World War II and were an integral part of our victory. They suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of the service while delivering troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war. Without the services of the Merchant Mariners, victory would have been more difficult, and certainly more lives would have been lost.

Unfortunately, they were denied any rights under the GI Bill of Rights. The Merchant Mariners became the forgotten service. It